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**TESTIMONY OF DALE WILLIAMS
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
and YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY**

**Committee on Commerce
February 24, 2011**

***Re: Raised Bill 6397- AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENERGY
INDEPENDENT ECONOMY IN CONNECTICUT.***

My name is Dale Williams. I am Director of Sales and Marketing for Yankee Gas Services Company (Yankee Gas), a natural gas distribution company based in Connecticut that provides natural gas service to 205,000 residential and commercial customers in 71 cities and towns.

I am here today to speak in support Raised Bill 6397- An Act Concerning the Development of an Energy Independent Economy in Connecticut. First, I applaud this Committee for raising this bill and for raising SB 924 – An Act Concerning Alternative Fuel Vehicles. With these two bills the Committee is recognizing the important role natural gas can play in the transportation sector.

Utilizing natural gas instead of gasoline or diesel to power vehicles is a low-cost, low-emissions solution for reducing our nation's dependence on foreign energy sources while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and urban smog. Utilizing natural gas powered vehicles is a proven technology choice that will help Connecticut meet and exceed ever-stricter emissions requirements and is an effective strategy to reduce the country's dependence of foreign oil.

The vehicles most suited for natural gas conversion are medium- and heavy-duty trucks, and transit and school buses. The EIA estimates that there were a total of 41,000 vehicles fueled by compressed natural gas on the road in 2007, and 2,600 vehicles fueled by liquefied natural gas. In addition, the use of natural gas as a vehicle fuel can reduce emissions of greenhouse gases as well as NOx, volatile organic compounds and particulates. NGVs produce 22 percent less greenhouse gases than comparable diesel vehicles and 29 percent less than comparable gasoline vehicles. With increased use of natural gas as a motor fuel Connecticut can have cleaner air.



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New shale gas discoveries have significantly increased supply estimates for the United State and Canada, as well as globally. The New York Times (January 17, 2011) reported that "the Energy Department more than doubled estimates of recoverable shale reserves to 837 trillion cubic feet, the energy equivalent of roughly 140 billion barrels of oil. That's slightly greater than the proven oil reserves of Iran, the world's third largest repository of crude".

These discoveries are truly a "game changer". The article goes on to say that by "shifting America's gasoline-guzzling heavy vehicle fleet and buses to natural gas the United States could cancel orders for up to three million barrels of oil a day. This could save \$100 billion off the annual trade deficit at current oil prices".

Another important factor that needs to be mentioned is the increased supply of natural gas means that natural gas prices are no longer necessarily tied to the price of oil. Commodity price forecasts increasingly show a widening differential between the price of natural gas and that of other fuels. This is good news for Connecticut consumers.

While natural gas vehicles are a start in the pursuit of a cleaner, more economic energy future for Connecticut, more can be done to take full advantage of the many benefits that natural gas can bring to the state's citizens and businesses. For example, state policy and regulation could be shaped to encourage the timely expansion of natural gas usage in home heating and business applications. These efforts will lead to lower energy costs for consumers, and greater economic activity within our communities.

Thank you. I look forward to any of your questions.